

Minutes of meeting

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE AREA)

Date: Wednesday, 23 March 2005
Time: 4.00pm
Place: Lecture Hall, Weybridge Library

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mr Andrew Crisp (Walton South & Oatlands)
Mrs Margaret Hicks (Hersham)
Mr Ian Lake (Weybridge) – In the Chair
Mrs Rachael Lake (Walton)
Mrs Maggie Martin (The Dittons)
Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (Cobham and Oxshott)
Mr David Morris (Molesey West)
Mr Anthony Pegler (Esher & Molesey East)
Mr John Pincham (Claygate and Hinchley Wood)

Elmbridge Borough Council (for transportation matters)

Mr Gordon Chubb (Walton Central)
Mrs Rosemary Dane (Walton South)
Mr Glenn Dearlove (Weybridge South)
Mr Peter Heaney (Esher)
Mr Alan Hopkins (Molesey North)
Mr Bob Mott (Hersham North)
Mr Roy Taylor (Oatlands Park)
Mrs Janet Turner (Hinchley Wood)
Mr Graham Winton (Weybridge North)

Also present:

Jane Armitage, Acting Assistant Local Education Officer
Clement Bamgbade, Bridge Engineer
Richard Bolton, Principal Engineer
Ben Byrne, Divisional Manager, Youth Offending Team
Janet Cooke, Local Director
Anthony Durno, Area Manager, Youth (Mid Surrey)
Tony Fildes, Acting Local Education Officer
Hannah Fogell, Local Committee and Partnership Officer
Janet Forster, Area Manager Surrey Children's Service (North East Surrey)
Howard Jones, Youth Development Officer (Elmbridge)

Peter Kipps, Community Safety Manager, Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership

Lindsey Millar, Senior Research and Development Officer, Performance Analysis and Improvement Centre

Helen Nowicki, Multi-Professional Team Manager

Chris Smith, Local Transportation Director

Margaret Whitefield, Local Resident

Ian Wilson, Principal Consultant for Secondary School Improvement, Four S

All references to items refer to the agenda for the meeting.

PART A: County and Borough Members

IN PUBLIC

17/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from Borough Councillor Roy Green, who was substituted by Bob Mott.

18/05 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Item 2)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's Local Committee (Elmbridge Area) held on 19 January 2005 were approved and signed as a correct record.

19/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

In accordance with Standing Order 58, Mr Crisp, Mrs Hicks, Mrs Lake, Mr Lake, Mrs Martin and Mr Pincham declared an interest in view of their roles as governors of maintained educational establishments in Elmbridge.

20/05 PETITIONS (Item 4)

No petitions had been submitted.

21/05 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION (Item 5)

Two public questions had been received from Mrs Whitefield regarding Weybridge Station Bridge and Safe Routes to Schools. Copies of the questions and responses from the Local Transportation Service were before the Committee and are appended to these minutes in Appendix A. The Chairman stated that Mrs Whitefield would be invited to speak at the beginning of Item 17.

22/05 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)

No questions from members had been submitted.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

PART B: County Members

23/05 SURREY CHILDREN'S SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT (Item 7)

Janet Forster introduced both the Surrey Children's Service Performance Report (Item 7) and the Surrey Children's Service (Education Support

Services) report (Item 8). Ms Forster explained that the work of Surrey Children's Service and the Multi-Professional Teams is now further

integrated, incorporating the Education Support Service as well. Surrey Children's Service has recently been successful in recruiting social workers, although they remain heavily reliant on workers from overseas and locums. There has also been success in recruiting foster carers. Extra support has been put in for Looked After Children, in particular the provision of personal tutors, which has been welcomed by many of the children. Ms Forster highlighted the successful 'Ready for Rydens' programme, which ran from Spring to Autumn 2004 and involved working with a number of pupils from Rydens' feeder primary schools to help them make the transition from primary to secondary school. This initiative will be extended this year.

Ms Forster informed members that they are welcome to attend the annual summer barbecue in July for Looked After Children and should contact Ms Forster if they are interested. Members were also invited to consider if in the course of meeting the public they could assist with the recruitment of social workers. Ms Forster concluded her presentation by paying credit to all the staff of Surrey Children's Service.

Members questioned whether the targets for educational attainment of young people leaving care were too low, but recognised that any educational achievement should be commended. Members also praised the service's success in recruiting foster carers, the campaign of which Ms Forster explained was still on-going.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the performance of the service both countywide, by area and locally within Elmbridge was noted;
- (ii) Comments and feedback on the operation of the service and the content of the report were noted;
- (iii) Opportunities for members' further familiarisation and engagement with the service via visits to teams/establishments were noted;
- (iv) The role of elected members as corporate parents for looked after children were noted.

24/05 SURREY CHILDREN'S SERVICE (EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES) (Item 8)

RESOLVED

That the report and opportunities for further information exchange and members' engagement with the service were noted.

25/05 EDUCATION REPORT FOR ELMBRIDGE 2003/04 ACADEMIC YEAR (Item 9)

Tony Fildes introduced his colleagues Jane Armitage, Lindsey Millar, who was involved in putting together the data for the report, and Ian Wilson. Mr Fildes informed the committee that this report was part of arrangements to report annually on schools and that the huge efforts of the borough's schools should be recognised.

Members were interested to hear more about workforce remodelling, following rumours that some head teachers are threatening to pull out of it. Members were also concerned about how 2005/06 school budgets might be affected by deficits of previous years. Ian Wilson confirmed that the National Association of Head Teachers has agreed to withdraw from workforce remodelling, although legally they are obliged to comply. The Four S team continues to give advice on this subject, but recognises that it will be dealt with differently by different schools. Mr Crisp highlighted that the County Council has given schools extra money to help with workforce remodelling and to employ extra teaching assistants. With regard to budgets, Mr Wilson explained that Elmbridge schools suffering from deficits are working to reduce the shortfall over time.

RESOLVED

Ways in which members' support of schools, and/or pupil groups, can facilitate further improvements to education within the borough were noted.

26/05 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT (Item 10)

Anthony Durno introduced the report and explained that this was an opportunity for members to give feedback on target setting for the service. Mr Durno informed the committee that the report sets out a top-down approach of national targets, as well as a bottom-up approach which harnesses local knowledge. Mr Durno emphasised that gaining the views of young people is a priority of the service and there is a target for 2005/06 on consultation with schools. The service recognises that it has not got this right yet, but it is developing.

Howard Jones informed the committee of the progress of the Elmbridge Youth Forum, which has now been set up following the Youth Conference in October 2004. The forum has representatives of young people from the borough's four secondary schools, Year 6 pupils from local primary schools and pupils from the American Community School. The forum, which was set up in partnership between Surrey County Council's Youth Development Service (SYDS) and Elmbridge Borough Council, has met twice and will meet again in April to work on the priorities identified by the young people. Their main concerns are the need for more information about services for young people, recycling facilities at every school and

college in the borough, the possibility of a graffiti art project, and more police. The Police and Police Authority are also working with SYDS on personal safety for young people. Mr Crisp informed members that from September 2005 there will be a full roll-out throughout the county of green cones for schools to collect green waste.

In terms of how members could work with the Youth Forum, Mr Jones explained that the forum was interested in meeting with councillors in due course for two-way consultation. Mr Jones agreed to liaise with the Local Director regarding future engagement between the Youth Forum and the Local Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's comments on the local plan, priorities for the following year and working with the Elmbridge Youth Forum were noted.

27/05 PROPOSALS FOR EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET (Item 11)

Janet Cooke informed members that any funds unallocated at the end of the 2004/05 financial year could be carried over to 2005/06. Ms Cooke also highlighted that any organisation that had received funds from the local revenue or capital budget and had not spent all of the money was obliged to return the underspend. This is why the report detailed £197.11 to spend from the 2003/04 allocation.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the thirteen proposals for expenditure from the Local Revenue Budget were agreed as follows:
 - i) Tony Pegler to contribute £1,750 towards the cost of new windows for 2nd Molesey (St. Paul's) Scout hut
 - ii) Andrew Crisp and Rachael Lake to contribute £1,125 for five trees to be planted in New Zealand Avenue
 - iii) Andrew Crisp, Rachael Lake, Maggie Martin and Tony Pegler to contribute £6,500 towards the cost of an Elm Partnership Conference
 - iv) Andrew Crisp to contribute £5,000 equipment for the Community Room at Walton Fire Station
 - v) Andrew Crisp to contribute £5,437.50 for Walton town centre initiatives
 - vi) Margaret Hicks to contribute £7,500 towards the design and construction of a roundabout at the junction of Queens Road and Molesey Road in Hersham
 - vii) Rachael Lake to donate £400 to the Fieldcommon Residents Group for plants for Fieldcommon
 - viii) Rachael Lake to contribute up to £850 towards maintenance costs of the pilot dog bins scheme for Fieldcommon

- ix) John Pincham to contribute £8,232.11 for a new pool fence for Claygate Primary School (including £197.11 of returned funding from John Pincham's 2003/04 local allocation)
 - x) David Morris to contribute £1,750 towards self-reliance initiatives in Molesey South
 - xi) Tony Pegler to contribute £1,750 towards community projects in Lower Green
 - xii) David Morris to contribute £750 towards the cost of cleansing and enhancement works to the roundabout at the Hurst Road / Sadlers Ride junction in Molesey
 - xiii) Rachael Lake to contribute £1,000 to the Walton and Hersham Police and Community Partnership Groups (PCPGs)
- 2) That the two proposals for expenditure from the Local Capital Budget were agreed as follows:
- i) £5,000 towards a new minibus for the Lower Mole Countryside Trust
 - ii) £5,000 towards further development of the Home Fire Risk Assessment Project through Care and Repair, Elmbridge

28/05 SELF-RELIANCE REPORT (VERBAL UPDATE) (Item 12)

Janet Cooke reminded members that a report on self-reliance was taken to the 19 July 2004 Local Committee meeting, as well as a community profile of the borough and identified areas with pockets of relative disadvantage in Elmbridge. The report proposed that the North Walton Partnership extend its work to other parts of Elmbridge, whilst still including North Walton. Surrey County Council's Executive has agreed to funding for a further two years to help employ a member of staff to drive and co-ordinate the self-reliance work. Other partner agencies have also renewed their funding and Surrey Police has increased its funding.

The partnership has agreed that from April 2005 the focus for self-reliance work in Elmbridge will be Molesey South and Lower Green, Esher, as well as a presence maintained in North Walton. There are other areas where the partnership would like to do more work in due course, but it is keen to ensure that its resources are not spread too thinly. Work is currently underway to map what is already going on in the two new areas and to consult with local stakeholders to find out what the key issues are. This will be followed by community consultation events in each of the areas to agree what the priorities should be for the projects and then action plans will be drawn up. A formal report will be brought to the Local Committee in a few months when a clearer picture is available about what exactly the partnership is aiming to achieve on the ground.

Mrs Lake praised all involved in the partnership for the incredible difference its work has made to Walton and she encouraged members to

get involved in self-reliance work. Mr Morris welcomed the new focus on Molesey South.

RESOLVED

Members noted the progress towards extending self-reliance work in Elmbridge from April 2005, starting with South Molesey and Lower Green, Esher.

29/05 ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2005-8 (Item 13)

Janet Cooke introduced Peter Kipps, who has just been appointed as Community Safety Manager for the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership.

Mrs Hicks highlighted the change in language from domestic violence to domestic abuse, which encompasses a wider range of abuse, and requested that people referred to domestic abuse from now on. Mr Crisp requested that the strategy make specific reference to fly tipping as this is such an important issue. Ms Cooke replied that the strategy would be implemented through a series of more detailed action plans and fly tipping would be picked up through them.

RESOLVED

That the members' comments on the draft Elmbridge Community Safety Strategy 2005-8 were noted.

30/05 LOCAL CAPITAL ALLOCATION (Item 14)

Chris Smith introduced the report, drawing particular attention to the Quadrant, Weybridge, and Hersham roundabout proposals, both of which have been supported by member allocations.

RESOLVED

That the committee:

- i) Noted how the 2004/05 Local Allocation budget was used.
- ii) Approved the list of transportation projects set out in Appendix 'A' to the report be funded from the £100,000 Local Allocation budget for 2005/06.

31/05 DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT (Item 15)

Mr Lake informed the committee that it is hoped that the 'go-live' date given in the report will be brought forward by a couple of months.

RESOLVED

That the Local Transportation Director was authorised, after consultation with the Member Task Group, to advertise the consolidation order and if possible resolve any objections received.

PART C: County and Borough Members

32/05 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WAITING RESTRICTIONS – COBHAM, WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE (Item 16)

Richard Bolton explained that the amendments proposed in the report are intended to rectify the impact of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) and to rectify the parking problem in Anyards Road, Cobham. Mr Bolton informed the committee that residents have been consulted and the Police are also in agreement with the proposals.

Mr Lake emphasised that we cannot afford to hold up the application for DPE as this would impact on the whole of Elmbridge. Mr Smith reassured members that residents of the streets affected by the changes would be informed.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- i) Approved the advertising of a traffic regulation order relinquishing the existing restrictions on:
 - Minorca Road – On both sides of the carriageway up to where the Controlled Parking Zone commences
 - South Road – On the western side of the carriageway only, except from its junction with Queens Road for a distance of ten metres
 - Pantile Road – On the southern side of the carriageway
 - Hurst Grove – On the northern side of the carriageway
- ii) Approved the relinquishing of the existing limited waiting restrictions on the eastern side of Anyards Road (for a distance of 50 metres in a southerly direction commencing 12.5 metres south of its junction with Freelands Road and introduce an order 'No Waiting at Anytime' for this same location.
- iii) Approved the relinquishing of the existing 'No Waiting at Anytime' restriction on the southern side of Freelands Road for a distance of

33 metres in an easterly direction, starting at a point 37 metres east of its junction with Anyards Road.

- iv) Approved the introduction of 'No Waiting Mon-Sat 0830-1830hrs' on the southern side of Freelands Road from a point 37 metres east of its junction with Anyards Road through to its junction with Tartar Road.
- v) Authorised the Local Transportation Director, following consultation with the Chairman and Divisional Member to consider, and if possible resolve, any objections received.

33/05 **QUESTIONS FROM MRS WHITEFIELD**

Mrs Whitefield, who had submitted questions on this item and on Safe Routes to School, was invited to speak. Mrs Whitefield began by querying the point of procedure that public questions must be submitted at least seven days in advance of the Local Committee meeting, yet the agenda is only published seven days before the meeting, which makes it difficult to submit a question relating to a report. Mr Lake responded that public questions can be on any subject and are not specifically for items that are on the agenda.

Mrs Whitefield asked if the drawings referred to in the recommendations of the report were available. She then voiced her concern that no measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of road onto rail incursion and that nothing has been done to protect the public in three years, which is particularly concerning given that the station is well used by children. Mrs Whitefield said that it is not clear who would be held responsible were there to be a road onto rail incursion. Mrs Whitefield requested that this item be kept on the agenda until work is done to satisfy the Health and Safety Executive.

With regard to her question on Safe Routes to School, Mrs Whitefield explained that the travel plan for Heathside School is causing problems for the school due to the high level of interest in cycling. Over 200 pupils have expressed a desire to cycle to school, but there are no cycle lanes. Nothing has been done regarding the transport plan for the school and the travel plan appears to be more aspirational than anything else.

34/05 **B374 WEYBRIDGE STATION BRIDGE (Item 17)**

On the issue of Weybridge Station Railway Bridge, Chris Smith apologised for the absence of the drawings in the report. It had been the intention to include them, but they could not be adequately reduced to scale and so were instead displayed on boards at the back of the hall during the meeting.

Mr Smith explained that the primary objective is to bring about mitigation improvements for the bridge, but that the Local Committee has no decision-making authority on this issue. However, the Local Transportation Service has £15,000 in its Local Allocation budget to spend on improvements in the location of the bridge. Mr Smith reassured Mrs Whitefield that Surrey County Council is working on this – the funding is earmarked and work will start as soon as it can. Improvement works are being brought forward as the County Council recognises this bridge to be a priority. Through the South West Weybridge Feasibility Study the County Council is putting forward a small amount of money for improvements at the bridge for pedestrians.

Mr Lake requested for the next Local Committee meeting that Clement Bamgbade and his team present a timetable for the works on the bridge.

RESOLVED that

- i) The questions from Mrs Whitefield and officer responses were noted.
- ii) The scheme was approved.
- iv) The Local Transportation Director (LTD) was empowered to advertise the Traffic Regulation Order, after consultation with the Chairman, to prohibit right turn movement out of the public car park on the south side of the railway; consider and, if possible, resolve any objections.
- v) A brief update be given at the next Local Committee meeting on progress of mitigation measures against vehicle incursion onto the railway at Weybridge Station Railway Bridge.

35/05 WALTON HIGH STREET (Item 18)

Chris Smith introduced the report and informed members that the Walton High Street bid had done well in coming second in the county when assessed against the criteria, although it is an expensive bid and on cost-benefit criteria the bid came seventh on the list. However, it is proposed for the scheme to go ahead and £15,000 from the Local Allocation has been proposed. The original bid was supported by funds from Elmbridge Borough Council, which has agreed to an advance of £5,000. Mr Smith highlighted that the report suggests that a community based task group be established to consider and provide feedback on design aspects of the project.

The proposal was welcomed by members, but questions were raised over whether the proposal would consider access for buses, who could

participate in the task group, and also what the timescale for the scheme was expected to be. Mr Lake explained that the scheme is expected to be implemented in 2006/07. Mr Smith informed members that the task group would be advisory and would not act as a consultation arm. The sponsoring committee would remain the Local Committee. Regarding traffic priorities, Mr Smith reminded members that the proposal is for the street, not for a revised traffic system. Mr Smith stressed that this scheme has not yet been signed off and the more new sources of funding that can be acquired for the scheme, both from members and from external sources, the quicker the scheme will be able to move forward.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- i) Welcomed the financial support indicated by the Executive;
- ii) Approved a capital sum of £15,000 to develop the design of the scheme;
- iii) Endorsed the general design principles set out in the report;
- iv) Established a community task group to advise the Committee on the project and appointed the Chairman to represent this Committee.

36/05 LTP CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME 2005/06 (Item 19)

Chris Smith introduced the report, explaining that most of the schemes have already received approval, none are new schemes.

Mr Pincham asked for extra clarification on the difference between the quote and the final bill for the Hampton Court Way project. Mr Lake confirmed that this will be looked into.

RESOLVED

That the committee approved the schemes proposed in the Construction Programme for funding from the devolved LTP budget for 2005/06.

37/05 PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT ON WOODSTOCK LANE SOUTH (C158) AND CLAYTON ROAD (C159), CLAYGATE (Item 20)

Chris Smith informed members that this proposal had been requested by Mr Pincham and the Speed Reduction Group. The speed limit is expected to well be received by the local community. The limit will also benefit horse riders who frequently use these roads. Having consulted with the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, it has been agreed

that Clayton Road should be included within the proposal, to allow consistency of limits.

Mr Winton highlighted that this proposal would be welcomed by cyclists.

RESOLVED

That the committee authorised the Local Transportation Director to advertise the necessary Traffic Regulation Order, as set out in Section 2 of the report and, if possible, to resolve any objections received, in consultation with the Divisional Members and the Chairman.

38/05 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2004/05 (Item 21)

Chris Smith informed members that this item is just for information and he expressed thanks to officers Nia Griffiths and Lynne Howard for their work on the data for the report.

Mr Lake complimented the Safe Routes to School team for the great work that they do, which is much appreciated by schools. Mr Lake noted that the Walking Buses have been particularly well received.

RESOLVED

That the committee noted the work done to date as detailed, and approved the funding for small-scale Safe Routes to School engineering works for the year 2005/06.

39/05 WEYBRIDGE 20MPH ZONE (Item 22)

Chris Smith introduced the report and explained that there has been a significant reduction in accidents and speeds in this zone. The roads addressed by the traffic calming scheme meet the criteria for a 20mph zone, but it would be incongruous to exit a 20mph zone into the High Street which has a different speed limit. It is therefore recommended that the additional shopping area be considered for inclusion in the zone. The A317 is slightly marginal on meeting the criteria, so its inclusion in the scheme may not be supported by Surrey Police, although it is supported by the Local Transportation Service and the Divisional Member.

Mr Dearlove expressed concern that there may be confusion over the number of different signs and requested that signs be kept in line with the local conservation area. Mr Winton voiced his support for the scheme and emphasised that it will help the schools in the area. However, Mr Winton also felt that the inclusion of Walton Lane should be considered and Mrs Lake requested the inclusion of Baker Street be considered. Mr Smith responded that Walton Lane is a long way from meeting the criteria for the scheme and its inclusion would not add any

value to the reduction of accidents as that has already been achieved. Baker Street had not been considered and Mr Smith confirmed that this street will be looked at to see if it meets the criteria.

RESOLVED that

- i) The making of a Traffic Regulation Order for the 20mph zone on the roads listed in Appendix 1 to the report and as shown in Figure 1 of the report was approved.
- ii) The Local Transportation Service undertake a wider consultation including the local schools in the area. This will also include consulting with the residents of Wey Road and Round Oak Road, to determine if they wish to be included within the 20mph zone.
- iii) The Local Transportation Director was authorized to consider and, if possible, resolve any objections received, following consultation with the Chairman and Divisional Member.
- iv) A sum of £10,000 to be funded through the 2005/06 delegated Local Allocation was approved.

40/05 Mr Lake concluded the meeting thanking those County members who will not be returning to the Local Committee in the new municipal year for their efforts as members of the committee.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm

.....(Chairman)

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE AREA) 23 MARCH 2005

The following questions have been received from a member of the public. The questions and responses are set out below.

1 Weybridge Station Bridge (Mrs M. R. Whitefield)

- i) How will the proposed works affect the risk ranking of the bridge, at present 105?

Officer Response: The proposed works will affect the risk ranking of the bridge by reducing the score to 80 (within manageable / acceptable risk level).

- ii) Are any improvements to be carried out with reference to the post and wire fence at St Georges Avenue?

Officer Response: No improvement (within the current proposed works) will be carried out to the post and wire fence at St Georges Avenue. This fence does not contribute to the current bridge risk ranking.

- iii) How much finance has Surrey County Council put into these mitigation measures, ie. what is the split between Network Rail and Surrey County Council?

Officer Response: Surrey County Council has set aside £192,000 for mitigation measures at the three sites identified as being at highest risk in the County. The Government directive is that both Network Rail and the Highway Authorities share equally the cost of implementation measures.

iv) Will the wooden fence be replaced?

Officer Response: The wooden fence is in the ownership of Network Rail. No works are planned as for safety reasons they are not prepared to undertake any works to the fence without a track possession (and the consequential impact that this will have on train services). Measures have been included on the highway (trief kerbing) to mitigate these risks.

v) Has it been decided who is responsible for the parapet walls?

Officer Response: Network Rail is the owner of Weybridge Station Railway Bridge and is responsible for the parapet walls.

vi) Will the improvements highlighted in the South West Weybridge Feasibility Study be included in this exercise?

Officer Response: The opportunity was taken during the design of these mitigation measures to include some of the improvements identified for this junction (for pedestrian movement) in the South West Weybridge feasibility study. The Local Committee has committed a separate £15,000 of their local capital allocation (subject of a report on today's agenda) to fund these works.

2 **Safe Routes to School (Mrs M. R. Whitefield)**

What progress has been made to implement the Safe Routes to School programme at Heathside School, Weybridge?

Officer Response: The Safe Routes to Schools Initiative was introduced to Heathside School during discussions regarding the South West Weybridge Feasibility Study. Following a full survey of the pupils' travel patterns carried out by Surrey County Council (SCC), the school prepared their School Travel Plan (STP).

STPs are documents prepared by schools which identify their main travel issues and include an Action Plan of how these issues could be addressed, and by whom. These actions can include a variety of education and training activities, such as pedestrian training, Year 10 road safety training and pre-driver courses co-ordinated by the SCC Road Safety Officer, awareness schemes with input from the Safe Routes to School Officer (SRSO), as well as engineering schemes. It should be noted that these engineering measures are effectively the school's "wish list", and are not always feasible for a variety of reasons, but are considered and developed by SCC where possible.

The Heathside STP was submitted in March 2004, and along with all those from Surrey's schools, can be viewed on the County website. As a result the School has received approximately £12,000 in funding from the Department for Education & Skills and the Department for Transport. This grant will be spent on new secure cycle storage at the site, and the school will be supplementing this sum to provide a total of approximately 150 cycle spaces. The SRSO continues to work with the School in developing a car-sharing scheme for staff and 6th form students, as well as looking at other issues such as bus services. The SRSO is also encouraging the creation of a full School Travel Working group, comprising of staff, Governors, parents and pupils to help progress the STP and its actions.